



Legislative Update

S-1926: Sponsored by: Senator John O. Bennett; Co-Sponsored by: Senators Palaia and Allen: Authorizes the establishment of a trust providing for deferred distribution of funds for minor beneficiaries of persons who die without a will. On November 4, 2002, the bill passed the Senate. It will permit trustees of any trust, including those established with proceeds of the federal Victims Compensation Fund, to apply to a court to defer distribution of principal from age 18 to the following schedule: one-third at the age of 25; one-half of the balance at age 30, and the remaining balance at age 35.

S-1215: Sponsored by: Senators Shirley K. Turner and Wayne R. Bryant; Co-Sponsored by: Senator Joseph A. Palaia: Exempts from New Jersey gross income tax the income of victims who died in the September 11, 2001 terrorist Attacks. On November 18, 2002, S-1215 was reported out of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee with amendments and given a second reading. Identical bill: Number A1912.

Scholarship Update

The World Trade Center Scholarship Act Board of Trustees will be sending a letter and questionnaire to families to obtain vital information needed to plan for the post secondary educational needs of the dependent children and spouses of victims. The Board is urging families to fill out the questionnaire and will include a return, postage-paid envelope to facilitate this request.

In addition to the list of college scholarships for families of victims attached to the March edition of this Newsletter, the following funding sources are available:

◆ **Jersey Jams** is a fiduciary fund of Bergen County's **United Way** that scholarship money for music students. Music Scholarships are available to all NJ families who were directly affected by 9/11. Scholarships can be used to pay for private music lessons, purchase school band equipment, sheet music, reimburse traveling expenses to competitions, festivals and auditions, and subsidize tuition to college and graduate studies in music.

For more information, please visit www.jerseyjamsfund.org or email makinclan@aol.com. Applications may also be obtained through NJ Family Advocates.

◆ **The Patrick S. Murphy 9/11 High School Fund** is a needs-based high school scholarship award covering tuition to attend a private or Catholic high school in New Jersey, New York or Connecticut. The non-profit fund will consist of a total of approximately \$5,000 per year. To apply call Anjali McCormick at 908-918-1376 or Vera Murphy 973- 258-0325.

- ◆ **Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund;** 212-596-9920; info@cantorrelief.org
- ◆ **Catholic Charities Diocese of Brooklyn;** 718-722-6215; keaveney@ccbq.org
- ◆ **Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York-Catholic Charities WTC Support Fund;** 212-371-1011 x 2401; msgr.kevin.sullivan@archny.org
- ◆ **Children's Aid Society;** 212-949-4819; pcoltoff@childrensaidsociety.org
- ◆ **Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America, Inc.;** 877-862-0136; www.scholarship911.org
- ◆ **COSSI (Children of 9/11 Summer Scholarship Initiative);** 518-547-8261 info@cossi.org
- ◆ **Euro Brokers Relief Fund;** 212-778-6140; bclark@ebi.com
- ◆ **Firefighters National Trust;** 253/853-3430; www.firedonations.org
- ◆ **Heroes of New York Scholarship Foundation;** 212-230-9439; guara@kkr.com
- ◆ **Mercy Corps;** 800-292-3355, x 250; info@mercy corps.org
- ◆ **Research Foundation of the Association for Investment Management and Research;** 507-931-1682; www.aimr.org
- ◆ **September 11, 2001 Children's Fund, Inc.;** 845-758-0911; www.911childrensfund.org
- ◆ **September 11 Scholarship Alliance;** 877-862-0136; www.scholarship911.org
- ◆ **Spring Rain Foundation;** 212-580-0282; www.spring-rain-foundation.org (science & history only)
- ◆ **Twin Towers Orphan Fund/Bakersfield Garden Community Enhancement Project;** 661 633-9076; ttof.org
- ◆ **United Negro College Fund;** 800-331-2244; uncf.org or uncf.com

¹The area north of Canal Street bounded to the east by Essex Street, to the north by Delancey Street and by Broadway to the west.

Memorial Walls Advisory Committee

The Memorial Walls Advisory Committee ("the Committee") is charged with the care and maintenance of the kiosks created at the Family Assistance Center in Jersey City immediately after the September 11, 2001 Attacks. The Committee has arranged for these kiosks to be exhibited several times in the past year. They are currently located at Fairleigh Dickinson University, 150 Kotte Place, Hackensack, and will remain there until year's end. At least one additional exhibit is planned thereafter.

The Committee is exploring steps to be taken to preserve the walls and recommending that they be stored in a controlled environment until a permanent home is found for them as envisioned in Governor McGreevey's Executive Order 29. Family members wishing to express their views on this subject should contact the Office of Recovery and Victim Assistance at 609-777-1248.

Holiday Events:

◆ **Santa Ball:** A Holiday Party for the Children of the Victims of 9/11 hosted by Septembers Mission, Ground Hero Kids and September Space will be held at the Firehouse Community Space (87 Lafayette St. at White St.) on Saturday, December 14th from 1 to 5 pm. The program will include: Vinnie Voltage, Ringling Brothers clowns, King Charles Unicycle Troupe, Free Arts New York Craft Corner, as well as magic shows, face painting, DJ and dancing and a visit by Santa Claus. Children of all ages are invited. Please RSVP with the names of all attendees by calling 888-424-4685 or Email: monica@septembersmission.org.

◆ **The Gift of New York** is planning to provide you and your families with a wide range of exciting Holiday events this season, from special seats at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, to performances of Disney on Ice in New Jersey and Long Island, to viewing the Christmas Tree with your kids at The Bronx Zoo.

As November, December and January unfold, families will be receiving twice-monthly Holiday Season E-mail Updates from The Gift of New York about upcoming events at reserved seating venues and the 63 museums, botanic gardens and cultural institutions that provide free admission with the TGNy Pass Card. Among the selections are: an opportunity to be an Islanders Stick Kid for a game at the Coliseum; holiday concerts at Carnegie Hall, and the Museum of Jewish Heritage's Hanukkah cooking class.

As always, these and other tickets are available on the web site, <http://www.thegiftofnewyork.org/> or by calling 800-528-1499.

Info Hotline: 877-688-5268 • www.nj.gov/wtc

Providing Help for September 11 Victims and Their Families

Project Phoenix

Federal funding is being provided for the delivery of community crisis counseling and traditional mental health services through Project Phoenix. Project Phoenix is a coordinated effort by over 50 different agencies headed by the State Departments of Human Services and Health and Senior Services. Services are provided in the New Jersey counties most affected by the September 11, 2001 Attacks: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset and Union. Crisis counselors are trained to be active listeners and can provide referral information to traditional services as appropriate. They are available for:

- ◆ Individual and group crisis counseling;
- ◆ Outreach to affected populations who would not traditionally seek mental health services;
- ◆ Information, both online and in various printed materials, about disaster stress and coping;
- ◆ Needs assessments to identify gaps in local services for survivors;
- ◆ Training for mental health professionals on how to assist people affected by disaster, and
- ◆ Consultation to schools, businesses and other organizations concerning how best to help persons experiencing traumatic grief and disaster stress reactions.

Throughout New Jersey, crisis counseling is available at no charge to the persons involved or affected by the September 11th terrorist Attacks. The confidential toll free hotline—877-294-4357—is staffed from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. by trained counselors. The website is www.projectphoenixnj.com.

FEMA's Mortgage and Rental Assistance Program

Help is still available from the FEMA Mortgage and Rental Assistance (MRA) program which expanded its guidelines to assist more people. Apply if:

- ◆ You lived or worked in Manhattan on or before September 11, 2001, or were employed by a company economically dependent on business based in Manhattan;
- ◆ You lost at least 25% of your total household income after September 11;
- ◆ You are unable to pay your rent or mortgage and face eviction or foreclosure because of this loss of income; and
- ◆ You or a member of your household is a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified alien.

Those seeking MRA aid must apply before January 31, 2003. The number is **800 462-9029**.

NJFAM Update

New Jersey Family Advocate Management, Inc. (NJFAM) Executive Director Joanne Gerow announced that, as of November 20th, 546 family members have signed up to receive the services of an advocate through the Family Advocate Program (FAP) established by Governor James E. McGreevey in Executive Order No. 5. The program provides individual advocates for families who lost loved ones and for individuals who were physically injured in the September 11th Attacks. Family members interested in working with an advocate should call the toll free line at 877-688-5268.

NJFAM will begin administering a new program, the Ongoing Recovery Program (ORP), financed by The September 11th Fund. NJFAM will conduct information sessions for New Jersey's displaced workers about the providers and services offered by the ORP's Employment Assistance Program (EAP). The EAP is designed to assist individuals who lost their jobs and/or experienced a substantial reduction in earnings as a result of the September 11th Attacks. The EAP includes employment assistance and health care programs. NJFAM will also certify those eligible for the program.

The following individuals are eligible for EAP services including assessment and career coaching; job search assistance; education and training, and post employment retention services:

- ❖ Dependent family members of the deceased, regardless of pre 9/11 employment status;
- ❖ Individuals who worked south of Canal Street and in Chinatown¹ in New York City prior to September 11, 2001 and who meet the eligibility criteria of unemployed or underemployed as defined below:

Unemployed: An individual who is not employed at the time of eligibility determination and who became unemployed during the period September 11, 2001 to January 11, 2002.

Underemployed: An individual who became unemployed at some point during the period September 11, 2001 to January 11, 2002, but who is currently employed at gross wages of less than 70% of pre-September 11, 2001 wage income; or

An individual who experienced a reduction in earnings during the period September 11, 2001 to January 11, 2002, resulting in wages of less than 70% pre-September 11, 2001 wage income and who is currently realizing gross wages of less than 70% of pre-September 11, 2001 wage income.

Access to EAP information sessions and services is via the NJFAM toll free number: 866-652-7474.

Freedom Quilts

On Saturday, December 7th and Sunday, December 8th, a national quilting society will be bringing handmade quilts to the New Jersey families of victims of the September 11, 2001 Attacks. The quilts will be on display for selection by families from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. both days at the Xavier Center, St. Elizabeth's College, Convent Station, New Jersey. Convent Station is accessible from Routes 80, 287 and 24.

Remembrance Quilts

The group, "United We Quilt", (UWQ) is a non-profit organization of experienced volunteer quilters from across America and around the world, who are creating one-of-a-kind memorial quilts, each celebrating the life of a particular person who was lost on September 11. Quilts are made only at the request of family members, friends or other relatives who lost loved ones on September 11th. These quilts are not intended for any public display. They are for the personal use of the husbands, wives, parents, siblings, children, and friends left behind.

UWQ was established by two Vermont quilters within days of the tragedy. To date, about 350 family members have been matched with volunteer quilters who have created personalized quilts in an effort to bring comfort and healing.

Each quilt requires a close collaboration between a quilt maker and a family, usually by telephone, mail, and/or email. Depending on the family's wishes, the quilt may include clothing from the victim, which might be mailed to, or picked up by, the quilter. Some quilts include copies of photographs transferred onto fabric, words, or other mementos. Creating such quilts requires hundreds of hours and involves many technical challenges, so that hiring a professional might reasonably cost hundreds or even thousands of dollars. All UWQ quilts, however, are a gift to the families at no cost, with the expenses paid by the volunteer quilters, or, in a few special cases, by UWQ. Samples are available for viewing on the website, www.unitedwequilt.org. If you would like to be matched with a volunteer quilter who will make a "Remembrance Quilt" for your family, please contact:

Jane Jackson, Co-Founder
512 Broadway, Apt. 4-A
Bayonne, NJ 07002-3777
(201) 339-6607
janeatmil@aol.com

Info Hotline: 877-688-5268 • www.nj.gov/wtc

Providing Help for September 11 Victims and Their Families

Just 4 Me

The United Ways of Bergen, Passaic, and Morris have partnered with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Bergen, Passaic, and Morris to offer a mentoring program for children who lost a loved one on September 11th called "Just 4 Me". The program develops relationships that allow children to express their feelings through play and recreational activities. It provides a one to one relationship with a trained, adult volunteer, who is supervised by a Licensed Social Worker using standards set by Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America. Parental involvement is a part of the process. To learn more, please call Christine Piracci or Tara Veerman at 201 612-2325 or fill out an online application at bbbs@morriscounty.org.

Database Outlining Charitable Contributions

The New York City-based Foundation Center (<http://www.fdncenter.org/>) has launched a new online database that makes accessible to the public up-to-the-moment information on the unprecedented outpouring of contributions by institutional philanthropy following the September 11 terrorist Attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

Users can search the new 9/11 Funding Database (<http://fdncenter.org/911db/>) to find out how much a specific corporation or foundation gave to which organizations and to look at donors and recipients in various geographic areas and areas of interest, including human services, arts and culture, immigrant rights, and foreign policy research. In the future, the Center plans to add information about the distributions made from relief funds in order to increase understanding of the long-term impact of 9/11 contributions.

The Center has also released *Aftermath of 9/11: An Update on the Foundation and Corporate Response*, which offers, among other things, a first look at the distribution of gifts from the largest relief funds.

The Center's multi-year Philanthropy's Response to 9/11: Creating the Record and Telling the Story initiative was established to bring into focus the role philanthropies and charities are playing in relief, recovery, and rebuilding in the aftermath of September 11, 2001.

To view the complete report (20 pages, PDF), visit: http://www.fdncenter.org/research/trends_analysis/pdf/9_11updt.pdf

Family Assistance Update

For printable copies of this issue or previous issues visit www.nj.gov/wtc or call 609-292-4791. Published by the New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety.

Mental Health Program Benefits

The September 11th Fund and the American Red Cross are working together to meet the mental health needs of those directly affected by the tragedy and sharing the costs to avoid duplication. Those eligible include:

- ◆ Immediate and extended family members of someone who died on September 11, 2001;
- ◆ People seriously injured on September 11, 2001 and their family members;
- ◆ People evacuated from the World Trade Center area (south of Chambers Street and west of Broadway) and their family members;
- ◆ People who worked at World Trade Center tower one or two but were not present at work on September 11, 2001;
- ◆ People who worked at or in the vicinity of the World Trade Center who lost a job, and their family members;
- ◆ People and their immediate family who lived south of Canal Street on September 11, 2001 who were temporarily or permanently displaced from their home;
- ◆ Emergency rescue and recovery workers officially deployed to the site of the disaster and their family members, and
- ◆ A child and/or the family of a child who attended a school near the World Trade Center.

The treatment will be at no cost to the individual and will be provided by a licensed practitioner of the patient's choice in the patient's area. The following treatments will be covered:

- ◆ Outpatient mental health treatment, including individual, group and family counseling;
- ◆ Psychotropic medication;
- ◆ Alcohol or substance abuse detoxification, counseling or outpatient rehabilitation, and
- ◆ Inpatient hospitalization and/or substance abuse treatment.

Covered services include those provided by:

- ◆ Professionals who are licensed for independent clinical practice in the state in which the service is provided, and
- ◆ Employees of licensed mental health or substance abuse programs including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family counselors, professional counselors, psychiatric nurse practitioners, certified alcoholism and substance abuse counselors, board certified art therapists and acupuncturists (for substance abuse services only).

The program will provide up to \$3,000 per individual, or 24 visits, retroactive to September 11, 2001. It will be the primary payment source for those who have no insurance or other resources and will cover out-of-pocket expenses for those who have existing mental health insurance.

To enroll, call LIFENET, the Mental Health Association of New York's 24-hour multi-lingual hotline:

English:	1-800-543-3638
Spanish:	1-800 298-3373
Asian:	1-800 990-8585

You may also enroll through your Family Advocate or call the Red Cross Call Center at 877-746-4987.

Once preliminary eligibility is determined, the Red Cross or Mental Health Association staff will call you to confirm benefits and gather necessary information to process claims. Those who are insured will follow the guidelines of their policies to select a professional, while those who are uninsured may call the LifeNet line for referrals either to licensed clinics or qualified private practitioners. Some practitioners have agreed to bill the program directly rather than require payment from clients. Benefit cards and information about submitting claims will be issued.